

# **THE CARIBBEAN STUDENTS' UNION**

**Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve W. 56W,  
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## **Introduction**

C.A.Y.A stands for Conscious African Youth Alliance. The whole concept of C.A.Y.A is to make African and Caribbean literature readily accessible to children in the rural areas of the Caribbean. At present, the group is composed of university students of Caribbean and African descent.

C.A.Y.A believes that there is a need to create links between students of Caribbean descent in Canada and students in the Caribbean. The relationships that all C.A.Y.A members have with youths in the Caribbean is strictly based on family ties.

## **What is C.A.Y.A'S purpose?**

It has come to our attention that many children from low income families residing in the rural parts of the Caribbean have less accessibility to books that contain historical contributions of African and Caribbean people. The purpose of C.A.Y.A is to establish an educational resource center (in a rural school or community center, ie. church) containing Afro-centric books and other culturally relevant educational materials, such as videos and games. We believe that exposing our Caribbean brothers and sisters to these Afro-centric materials will help them develop a positive self-image and enhance their self-esteem. On the other hand, C.A.Y.A's members will develop their leadership skills, therefore developing a

greater sense of self-reliance, and commitment to assist in building our Caribbean nations.

### **Is there a need for this project?**

The answer is definitely yes. The members of C.A.Y.A will gain as much as those we hope to reach. Caribbean youths in Canada are just as alienated from our society as some youths in the Caribbean. Therefore, a project of this nature will enable us to learn about one another's experience as an alienated segment in our respective societies. This learning will be facilitated by discussion workshops between C.A.Y.A members and rural youth from low income families in the Caribbean. These discussions will focus on our every day life and the problems we face as young immigrants in Canada.

### **What is C.A.Y.A.'s main theme?**

Our main theme is to promote and foster Caribbean consciousness among youth in Canada and in the Caribbean.

C.A.Y.A.'s motto is "the greatest gift that one can give to another is a deeper understanding of life and the ability to love and believe in self". We are certain that this "gift" will be exchanged between C.A.Y.A and the youths in the Caribbean.

### **Is C.A.Y.A a feasible project?**

We are currently looking at large Canadian based manufacturers who benefit from the Caribbean's natural resources, to help finance this project. These manufacturing companies will

purchase the books and other educational resources needed for the resource center. We have also approached Air Canada and BWIA to cover the cost of our air fare and accommodation.

### Can The Ministry of Education help C.A.Y.A.?

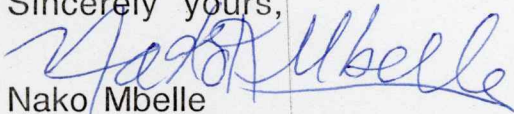
In order for C.A.Y.A to fulfill its purpose, we need the following information **A.S.A.P.** :

- 1) The name of the government official responsible for the education of rural and low income children.
- 2) The name and address of grassroot community development groups who would be interested in assisting C.A.Y.A. in Jamaica.
- 3) The name and the address of the student unions at UWI, Mona campus.
- 4) A summary report of the Jamaican (Caricom) national standards for school textbooks.

### The Caribbean Students' Union (aka C.A.Y.A)

If you have any information about this project please do not hesitate to call C.A.Y.A at any one of these numbers **(514) 848-3527** ask for Nako or Sharon, **(514) 598-0667** and ask for Nako or dial **(514) 276-3586** and ask for Sharon. Let us know if you are interested in this project as soon as possible, since our time is short and our task is TALL!

Sincerely yours,

  
Nako Mbelle

**Project Coordinator**